

to revert again to the Martini-Henry. The recoil would prove doubly distasteful, as they would find it an unnecessary piece of violence, spoiling their aim, and solely due to a now expiring system. It is said that the War Office are somewhat inclined to adopt practice cartridges which will give good shooting at 300 yards. This would be valuable as a means of improving long-range service shooting, without the expense of ammunition. Practice cartridges are made up to represent the service cartridge; but only the front portion contains the miniature cartridge and bullet. The body of the cartridge-case contains a striker. On firing the rifle the striker of the lock impinges on the striker in the cartridge-case, which, being pushed forward, strikes and ignites the primer in the miniature cartridge. About four grains of fine bright powder in the latter answers for barrack practice, whereas ten or twelve grains give, it is said, very good accuracy on the range at 300 yards.

Here we have another distinct advantage in the service magazine rifle, which, we firmly believe, only requires to be better known, and, above all, to be provided with the ammunition designed for it, to become not only a popular but very valuable weapon.

### CAVALRY.

(United Service Gazette, 7th March.)

Lord Wolsely presided on Wednesday at a well-attended meeting of the Military Society of Ireland, held at the Royal University, Dublin, when Major-General J. Keith Fraser, C.M.G., commanding the Dublin District, read a paper on the subject of "Cavalry."

Lord Wolsely, in introducing the lecturer, said they should be obliged to General Fraser for giving a lecture on a subject he was so well qualified to lecture about. He hoped that the example would be followed by others, and that numerous instructive subjects would be selected. There were a great many Cavalry officers present, and he earnestly hoped that they would give the society the benefit of their opinions on the subject, whether they were lieutenants or colonels.

Major-General Fraser, in the course of his lecture, said that he himself had been thirty years in the Cavalry, and that all his family belonged to it. He thought that it was necessary that a Cavalry officer should know a lot about Artillery and Infantry, and that, in fact, a man in one arm should be acquainted with the workings of the others before he was qualified to take control of the combined forces. Up to a very recent time little had been written about Cavalry, but since the Franco-German war the whole of Europe had been flooded with literature by brilliant writers on the subject of Cavalry, and all that had been written and said on the subject lately proved how hopelessly wrong were those persons who had predicted that the day for the Cavalry in Europe was completely past. A brilliant writer the other day had paid the Cavalry a great compliment by stating that the Infantry were afraid of them; but, be that as it might, the fact remained that of late a considerable revival had taken place on the subject throughout Europe. A number of authorities recently, when writing on Cavalry, had come to the conclusion that with the longer distances that arm of the Service would have to go they would come to the front again with better leaders. As a matter of fact, the Cavalry of the present day was as good as the Cavalry in the days of Hannibal, notwithstanding inventions—such as good muskets, percussion caps, breech loaders, etc.—after each of which the disuse of the Cavalry was predicted; but yet the Cavalry record had gone on as before. With better leaders he thought the Cavalry would hold their own, but at any rate as long as there were Cavalry they would have to keep Cavalry to meet them. After referring to some of the great victories that had been won by Cavalry, the lecturer went

on to say that, in his opinion, in future large masses of Cavalry in front of armies would do a great deal of the fighting against Cavalry. The idea was to send Cavalry sixty miles in front of the Army to discover what the enemy were doing. A general would have to get his information that evening in order that it might be of any use to him, and they could not depend on the Cavalry coming more than sixty miles in the night. The idea now was to have a war of masses, having the whole nation in arms, with the Cavalry massed. That did not affect them here, because they could not hope for masses of Cavalry. They here looked at things in a different light. They did not know that they would use Cavalry in Europe again, but they might suddenly require them in a smaller war, and therefore they must keep them up. In most Continental countries the Cavalry were about from one to three or one to four in the Army, but in England they were about one to seven. As to the troop system of Cavalry in use in the British Army, he disapproved of it, and thought that the squadron system would be much better. It was well known that every experienced officer was in favour of it. In conclusion, he spoke of the formation of a regiment, urged an improvement in the matter of peace and direction amongst their own Cavalry, and also expressed the hope that they would see a repetition of the manœuvres which they had had last year. He had only further to say that he hoped their Cavalry officers would try to work and study so as to make their Cavalry what it should be. He particularly recommended constant Cavalry exercise during five days per week.

Colonel Phillips opened the discussion on the lecture. After referring to some other subjects, he spoke of the responsibility of a Cavalry officer. He said that in the Infantry it was possible for a commander to make a mistake and yet to put the men into their places after all, but in the case of Cavalry it was different; a mistake was fatal. Therefore it was more necessary that the Cavalry leaders should be well trained, should possess great self-reliance, the eyes of a hawk, and should be firm riders. Every barrack should have a lecture room where the men could be instructed, for this class of instruction was better than any other. There was no time in the field for practice. He thought their Cavalry would be brought to a higher pitch if a higher standard were required. He thought it possible to bring the English officer to any standard required. The Cavalry officer more than the Infantry required a high training, because at any moment he was liable to find himself alone, with nothing but his own knowledge and courage to rely upon. He advocated more time at training and more reading.

After some remarks from Colonel McCalmont,

Colonel Morrison said in his opinion in the cavalry regiments the door was often closed to men of talents because of the very heavy expenses which it was absolutely necessary for the officers to incur. Even the abolition of the purchase system had not much reduced the expenditure. He considered this question one of vital importance, and one that should be looked into at once.

Lord Wolsely said, in reference to Colonel Morrison's remarks, the subject that that gentleman had referred to had occupied the attention of the authorities for a great many years, but it was found very difficult to lay down any regulations to prevent men spending money that they wished to spend, and that they had. It was a most difficult thing for the Government to take up. At the present moment the officers who belonged to their Cavalry regiments were second to none in the world, and although the expenses of their living were considerable, there was no difficulty in obtaining the numbers required. Now, in reference to the lecture, he had taken the greatest possible interest in it, and he had gained great benefit from it. He agreed with the views of General Fraser in reference to the Service of which he was such an ornament. General